
From: Schiavi, Vincent[SMTP:VSCHIAVI@SDFINANCIALADVISORS.COM]

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To: Della, Gloria - OPA
Subject: 401 ks and annuities
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Please pass these comments along to the individuals considering income options for retirees.

Please, please do NOT be swayed by the insurance industry's push to become an even bigger player in retirement plans. For goodness sake, on a daily basis they deplete the value of millions of 401(k) accounts as a result of high administrative fees and expenses. Time after time I come across 401(k) plans administered by insurance companies with the worst investment options, high annual costs, and inflexible management. Please do NOT allow them to retain control of these depleted accounts by locking participants into a default option to purchase an annuity. Annuities are just layered in fees as well. There is nothing stopping participants from buying an annuity with their 401(k) payout – should they decide (or be "sold") that that is a worthy option.

I implore you not to look to insurance companies to increase the financial security of our citizens in retirement. If anything doing so will lead to lower payouts, exorbitant surrender charges, and depleted estates. All you will be doing is contributing to the financial security of insurance company executives and their families for generations to come.

If you want to really help Americans, require that all 401(k) providers have fully transparent costs and fees. In plain language let them know how much of their contribution, and that of their employer, is eaten up in fees. Maybe that will result in more lower cost providers.

Vincent A. Schiavi, CFP®, CPA/PFS Schiavi + Dattani 2710 Centerville Road, Suite 201 Wilmington, DE 19808 Ph: 302.994.4444

Ph: 302.994.4444 Fax: 302.994.4443

www.SDfinancialadvisors.com

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